



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/715,232	11/17/2003	Robert G. Colantuono	750.1179	5027
21831	7590	11/24/2004	EXAMINER	
STEINBERG & RASKIN, P.C. 1140 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS, 15th FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10036-5803			NASRI, JAVAID H	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2839	

DATE MAILED: 11/24/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/715,232	COLANTUONO ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Javaid Nasri	2839	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 November 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some    \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.                                    |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Specification*

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:
  - a) On page 6, line 18, change “surface 28” to -- surface 26 --.
  - b) On page 6, line 18, change “lower wall 26” to -- lower wall 28 --.

**Note: These are few examples only. Applicant is required to check the entire disclosure and correct the disclosure accordingly.**

### *Drawings*

2. The drawings are objected to because:
  - a) Provide standard lettering,
  - b) Provide uniformly thick lines,

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled “Replacement

Art Unit: 2839

Sheet” in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

3. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the

a) the arcuate portion of the anti-snap member **faces the cavity**, per claim 10, must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled “Replacement Sheet” in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

***Claim Objections***

4. Claims 2, 3, 8 and 12-20 are objected to because of the following informalities:
- a) In claim 2, line 1, change "inner," to -- inner --.
  - b) In claim 8, line 2, "**the** entire width" lacks antecedent base.
  - c) In claim 12, line 7, delete "such that", second occurrence.
  - d) In claim 14, line 1, change "modular connector" to -- a modular connector --.
  - e) In claim 14, line 3, change "rear of the housing" to -- rear **end** of the housing --.

**Note: These are few examples only. Applicant is required to check all the claims and correct them accordingly.**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Erlich et al (5,613,869).

Erlich et al discloses, **for claim 1**, a housing defining a cable-receiving cavity opening at a rear of the housing (see figure 4), the housing comprising: a lower wall defining a side of the cavity, a tab (28) at a front portion extending rearward and obliquely outward from the lower wall (see

Art Unit: 2839

figure 4), and an anti-snap member (40) having an arcuate portion (see figure 4) having a forward facing end at an interface between the arcuate portion and the lower wall and a free end (48) overlying the tab to thereby close a gap between the tab and the lower wall (see figure 4); an arrangement for electrically coupling a cable when received in the cable-receiving cavity to electrical contacts in a mating connector, **for claim 2**, the anti-snap member includes an inner, forwardly facing surface contiguous with an outer surface of the lower wall (see figure 4), **for claim 3**, the outer surface of the lower wall is planar (see figure 4), **for claim 4**, the free end (48) of the anti-snap member engages a free end (44) of the tab, **for claim 5**, the arcuate portion is concave, **for claim 6**, the arcuate portion is arranged to initially project rearward from the interface between the anti-snap member and the lower wall and outward from the lower wall and then forwardly toward the tab (see figure 4), **for claim 7**, the anti-snap member further includes a straight portion (40, 48) defining the free end, the straight portion beginning at a distance from the lower wall and extending forwardly and obliquely relative to the lower wall (see figure 4), **for claim 8**, the anti-snap member extends only across a portion of the entire width of the lower wall, (see figure 4), **for claim 9**, the anti-snap member is centered on the lower wall (see figure 5), **for claim 10**, the arcuate portion of the anti-snap member faces the cavity (see figures 4 and 5), **for claim 11**, the anti-snap member have a uniform width (the front portion, see figure 7), **for claim 12**, a housing defining a cable-receiving cavity opening at a rear of the housing, the housing comprising: a lower wall having a planar outer surface and defining a side of the cavity, a tab at a front portion extending rearward and obliquely outward from the lower wall, the planar surface of the lower wall extending further rearward than the tab such that inward, flexing movement of the tab is limited by contact between the tab and the planar surface of the lower

Art Unit: 2839

wall, and an anti-snap member projecting from the lower wall such that an inner, forwardly-facing surface of the anti-snap member is contiguous with the planar surface of the lower wall, the anti-snap member having a free end overlying the tab to thereby close a gap between the tab and the lower wall; and an arrangement for electrically coupling a cable when received in the cable-receiving cavity to electrical contacts in a mating connector (see figures 4 and 7), **for claim 13**, the anti-snap member has an arcuate portion defining a forward facing end at an interface between said arcuate portion and said lower wall, said arcuate portion being arranged to initially project rearward from said interface between said anti-snap member and said lower wall and outward from said lower wall and then forwardly toward said tab.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 14-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Erlich et al. Erlich et al. discloses all the structural limitations of claims 14-20, as shown above for claims 1-13, however, Erlich et al does not disclose the method steps as claimed, the claimed method language is counter part of the apparatus claimed. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to develop a particular method for the disclosed apparatus of the cited references.

***Contact***

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Javaid Nasri whose telephone number is 571 272 2095. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tulsidas C. Patel can be reached on 571 272 2800 ext 39. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

**Any correspondence to this action may be mailed to:**

**Commissioner for Patents  
Post Office Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

For additional information regarding this new address, which was effective May 1, 2003, see *Correspondence with the United States Patent and Trademark Office*, 68 Fed. Reg. 14332 (March 25, 2003).

**Or faxed to:** 703-308-7722 or 308-7724 (informal or draft communications should be clearly labeled "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

**Hand-delivered responses should be brought to:**



Art Unit: 2839

**Crystal Plaza 4, Fourth Floor (receptionist)**

**2201 South Clark Place, Arlington, Virginia**



Javaid Nasri  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2839

JN/

jhn  
November 15, 2004